

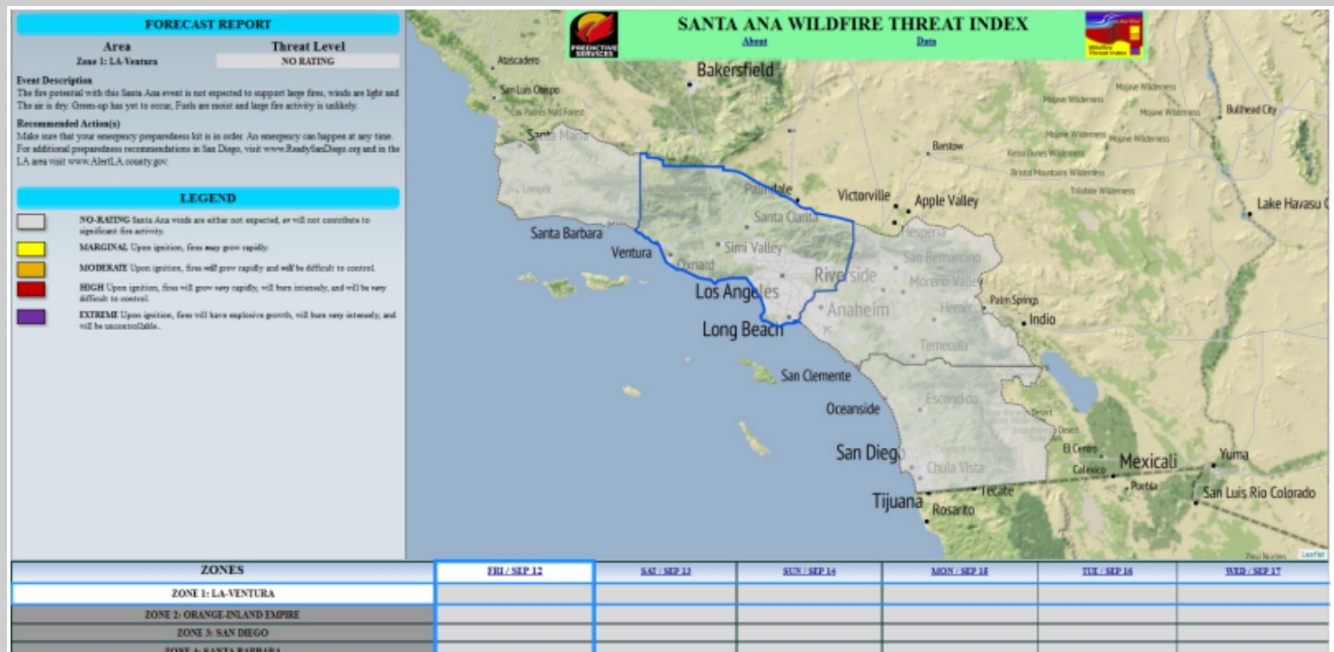






Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index

<http://santaanawildfirethreat.com>



The Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index (SAWTI) categorizes Santa Ana winds based on anticipated fire potential. The index uses wind speed, humidity, and fuel conditions to determine how severe an event will be in terms of its impact upon the fire environment. The categories are listed below, but also are classified by color. “Yellow” indicates a “marginal” event with the lowest potential of a major wildfire, while “purple” indicates an “extreme” potential for a catastrophic event



	Threat level	Recommended actions for the Public
	Marginal, yellow: Upon ignition, fires may grow rapidly.	Marginal Threat: Make sure that your emergency preparedness kit is in order. An emergency can happen at any time. Clean debris away from your house.
	Moderate, orange: Upon ignition, fires will grow rapidly and will be difficult to control.	Moderate Threat: Make sure that your emergency preparedness kit is in order. An emergency can happen at any time. Clean debris away from your house. Charge your cell phone and make sure you have plenty of gas.
	High, red: Upon ignition, fires will grow very rapidly, will burn intensely , and will be very difficult to control.	High Threat: Make sure that your emergency preparedness kit is in order. Go over your evacuation plan and meeting points with your family. Move all flammable objects off your patio, deck or porch. Clean debris away from your house, charge your cell phone and make sure you have plenty of gas. Register all cell phones in your household to receive reverse-911 warnings for the latest information.
	Extreme, purple: Upon ignition, fires will have Extreme growth , will burn very intensely, and will be uncontrollable	Extreme Threat: Make sure that your emergency preparedness kit is in order and closely monitor fire conditions. Go over your evacuation plan and meeting points with your family. Be prepared to move livestock, pets or family members with special needs. Move all flammable objects off your patio, deck or porch. Close windows, doors and vents on all structures and vehicles. Clean debris away from your house, charge your cell phone and make sure you have plenty of gas. Register all cell phones in your household to receive reverse-911 warnings for the latest updates.

Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index Fact Sheet

October 2015

Introduction

Tools to quantify the potential impact of natural disasters have been around for decades. For example, numerical categories denote the expected power of hurricane winds, and the Richter scale specifies the strength of earthquakes. Experts use these descriptive measurements to help residents, businesses and disaster organizations determine the operational decisions that should be made and safety precautions taken to minimize the impact of these threats and promote community preparedness.

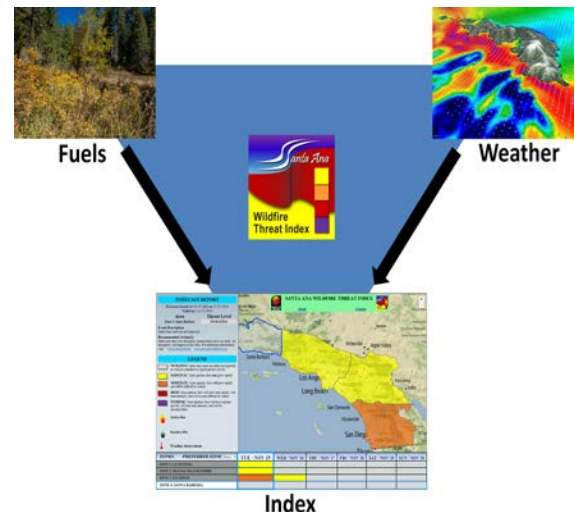
Winds & Wildfires

Now, a collaboration of the USDA Forest Service, San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and UCLA's Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences has resulted in a new tool to categorize the wildfire potential associated with a weather phenomenon unique to Southern California – the hot, dry, Santa Ana winds that can turn a spark into an inferno. The Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index is intended to better prepare first responders, private industry, and the general public about the kind of Santa Ana winds that can result in major wildfires.

How it Works

The Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index uses a comprehensive, state-of-the-art predictive model that includes dead fuel moisture, live fuel moisture, and the greenness of annual grasses to create a detailed daily assessment of the fuel conditions across Southern California. This information is coupled with calibrated weather model output (comprised of wind speed and atmospheric moisture), to generate a 6-day forecast of Large Fire Potential. The Large Fire Potential is then compared to climatological data and historical fire occurrence to establish the index rating.

One of the strengths of this index is that it incorporates both weather and fuels information into a single site that is available not only to first responders and government agencies, but also to the public. One of the



most significant elements of the index is the “call to action” associated with each threat level of the index, which includes recommended steps based on the potential severity of the forecasted Santa Ana.

Success Stories

The Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index was rolled out in a test phase during the fall 2013 wildfire season. During testing, the index successfully identified days when large fire growth was likely, during both historic and non-historic wildfire seasons, proving the value of this tool. In May 2014, a rash of fires broke out in coastal communities in San Diego County during a Red Flag Warning event. While the SAWTI tool had not been rolled out officially at that point, the data behind the ratings indicated the May fires had the fourth-highest fire potential in San Diego in the last 30 years. In 2013, the USDA Forest Service used SAWTI to pre-position air fleet resources, fire engines, and firefighters to attack the Springs Fire in Ventura County, all of which were called on within less than 24 hours. The index is a testament to the success of a partnership of government agencies, private industry and academia.

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